

Application Serial No: 10/748,921  
In reply to Office Action of 30 June 2005

Attorney Docket No 82680

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 are currently pending in the application. Claims 14 and 15 are allowed. Claims 1-5, 7-9 and 13 are rejected, and claims 6 and 10-12 are objected to. Claims 6 and 10 are canceled without prejudice by this response. Claims 1, 2, 9 and 11 have been amended by this response.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Stephens et al. (reference B: PG PUB 2005/0031343).

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 7-9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kinoshita et al. (reference A: PG PUB:2003/0223104).

The Examiner rejected claims 3-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stephens et al. (PG PUB 2005/0031343).

Concerning the remaining claims, the Examiner allowed claims 14-15. The Examiner objected that claims 6 and 10-12 were dependent on rejected base claims, but he stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

These rejections and objections are respectfully traversed in view of these amendments and remarks that follow.

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Applicant has amended claim 1 by incorporating the limitations of allowable claim 6 therein. This amendment is in strict compliance with the Examiner's conditions for allowance. Applicant has amended claim 2 to correct a typographical error in the dependency of the claim. Claim 2 should be dependent on claim 1. Claim 6 has been canceled without prejudice as being redundant because it has essentially the same scope as amended claim 1. Claims 2-5 and 7-8 should be allowable by dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-8 as amended.

Concerning the Examiner's rejection of claims 9 and 13, Applicant has amended claim 9 by incorporating the limitations of allowable claim 10 therein. This is in strict compliance with the Examiner's conditions for allowance. Applicant has canceled claim 10 as being redundant. Claim 11 has been amended to make it dependent on claim 9 rather than canceled claim 10. Claims 11-13 should be allowable by dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully solicits reexamination and allowance of claims 9 and 11-13.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration and allowance of claims 14-15.

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In view of the Remarks above, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application.

The Examiner is invited to telephone James M. Kasischke, Attorney for Applicant, at 401-832-4736 if, in the opinion of the Examiner, such a telephone call would serve to expedite the prosecution of the subject patent application.

Respectfully submitted,  
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28 September 2005

By



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